

Serial No.: 09/597,318

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50103sh

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 15 has been canceled, and claims 8-14 are being resubmitted in unamended form for reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has refused to examine a sleeve having "an inner diameter in the range of 3-8 inches," alleging that this is new matter. Applicant respectfully disagrees. On page 4 of the specification, it is explained that post 12 preferably has a diameter "ranging in size from about 3 inches to about 8 inches." Elsewhere in the specification, as on page 6, it is explained that cavity 28 (of the sleeve) has a cooperating cross-sectional shape adapted to receive post 12 in slip fit engagement." Thus, to anyone of skill in the art, the interior diameter of the sleeve and the outside diameter of the post are essentially the same, but for perhaps a slight air spacing.

Although claims 13-15 were objected to, it seems to Applicant that only claim 15 was misdrafted. Accordingly, based upon the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicant respectfully requests examination of the claims, which now distinguish over all of the references cited. Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


John G. Posa, Reg. No. 37,424
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,
Anderson & Citkowski, PC
PO Box 7021
Troy, MI 48007-7021
(734) 913-9300 FAX (734) 913-6007
Email: jposa@parlaw.com

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